# UTAH NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

## THE MINT MASTER

## February 2020

## Volume 68 Issue 2

# UTAH NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

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# PRESIDENTS MESSAGE — February 2020

## Cindy Cagle

I would like to thank Bob Campbell for taking the time to talk to us about perception and how it pertains to coins. We all see things differently and from various angles when it comes to coins. In the dictionary the word perspective means the way we look at things. Everyone looks at coins differently from grading to the types of coins they like to collect. Even the different dealers see things different, it might be the toning, the grading or many other things. It is nice that we all get together to learn about coins and how we can use the knowledge we gain in our everyday lives.

Another interesting thing is how much society has changed over the years, from how the market was in the olden days where we relied on newspapers for our information, and that took 24 hours or longer to see how much things are worth, whereas now we have the internet and we can get our answers pretty quick. Now we have the technology where we can have the answers right on our phone.

I would like to challenge everyone one to start a new collection, it can be anything.

February 11, 2020 we are having an auction. We are changing it around a little bit as we are not just doing coins, you can bring other collectible items too. The limit is still 5 lots and no more than 5 items per lot. We do recommend if you are setting a reserve on your items, please do not make them un-realistic. The coin club will get 5% of anything that people buy from you. We are also encouraging you to bring friends and family to this and they may also bring items to sell, or they can bid on/buy items, the above rules still pertain to them including the 5% Sellers Fee. We will be starting on time for this and we will not be having a coin quiz, news and views, mini exhibit, or prizes. So please have all your items to auction early that night.

I would also thank everyone who came to the Wasatch Winter Show. It was a good show.

As you all know Majestic coins closed their shop. I would like to thank Mike Hansen for donating the money earned on the purchases of the Whitman books to the club. We will be able to see them at the shows.

Thank you / Cindy Cagle / President

#

## Contents & Agenda For our February 11th 2020 Meeting.


| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Greetings - Cindy Cagle** | | **Feuchtwanger Cents** | **4-7** |
| **Mini Exhibit - None** | | **Canadian Coins** | **9-10** |
| **News & Views - None** | | **Cull of The Wild** | **14-16** |
| **Coin Quiz - None** | | **Quiz** | **18** |
| **Refreshments - TBA** | | **Editors Message** | **21** |
| | | **News & Views** | **26** |


**WITH JANUARY COMES THE UNS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL PROCESS.**

**PLEASE RENEW EARLY**

# *Feuchtwanger's Small Cents*

## *By Richard Snow*

### *Featuring the Doug Wright collection.*

Dr. Lewis Feuchtwanger arrived in America at the age of 24 in 1829. He came as a medical doctor trained at the University of Jena, in the free state of Thuringia, Germany. Settling in New York City, he soon became an entrepreneur, opening the first German pharmacy. He imported medicine, chemicals, and medical apparatus from his former homeland.

He also began to make an alloy which is known as German Silver. German silver is defined as roughly 1/2 copper, 1/4 nickel and 1/4 zinc. He called his alloy Feuchtwanger's Composition to differentiate it from the common German silver. He also marketed the alloy as American Silver.

His druggist shop was located at 377 Broadway in Manhattan until 1837. He expanded into minerals, gems and other natural curiosities. Some of these were shown at Peale's Museum down the street at 252 Broadway. Feuchtwanger won a special award for his composition at the American Institute annual fair in 1834, 1835 and 1836. By 1836 he entered into a partnership with Dr. Henry Senff. Their new business was listed as Feuchtwanger and Senff, Apothecaries. However, this arrangement fell apart shortly afterwards. In 1837 he moved his business to 2 Cortlandt Street.

At this time, tokens that were modeled after the current large cent were being stuck by numerous manufacturers. Many of them up until this year were political in nature or were used as advertisements. In 1837 the tokens changed their character to being more utilitarian in nature, replacing the cents in circulation in New York City.

The election of 1836 put Martin Van Buren in the white house. His "Illustrious Predecessor," Andrew Jackson, was a hard money advocate and put pressure on land speculation by requiring land to be purchased with gold or silver, not paper. Three months after Van Buren's inauguration in March 1837, the country was plunged into a steep depression, in part because of this action. Hard currency disappeared from circulation and the tokens filled the void. The quantity of these tokens, known to us today as "Hard Times" tokens, swelled in the cities.

Feuchtwanger saw this as an opportunity and commissioned the manufacturing firm of Bale and Smith, at 68 Nassau Street, to strike a large quantity of cent tokens using Feuchtwanger's Composition. Perhaps as many as a million pieces were ordered and struck. These were not the size of the current large cents, but were only 18.5 mm wide, a bit larger than a dime. This was the first small cent.

The obverse design features a perched eagle standing on a snake with 1837 below. The reverse had a olive wreath with FEUCHTWANGER'S * COMPOSITION * around the outside and ONE CENT inside the wreath. Three cent pieces were also made, but in much lower quantity. The eagle and snake motif was new and is likely a pro-Van Buren theme with the snake representing those who act out against the duly elected Government.

While most token issuers used the depression to further their business by advertising on the their own tokens, Fuchtwanger had bigger plans. He saw the widespread use of token coinage and thought that the Mint might be interested in his composition as a replacement for the cent.

In September, 1837, Feuchtwanger sent a "memorial" letter to Congress under the tile "Substitute for Copper." The petition was presented to Congress by Senator Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri. Specimens of the coinage were presented as well. Along with this, Feuchtwanger also presented a pamphlet which extolled the benefits of the metal. His "circular," as he called it, extolled "....if the "Silver Penny" as I wish to have it designated, shall be approved by Congress as a substitute for the one cent pieces, I shall in that case propose to renumerate the Mint for any loss sustained by the United States by withdrawl of the Copper Coin. I am ready to contract for delivery at the Mint of any amount of the composition which Congress may authorize to be coined."

Feuchtwanger supplied his pamphlet and specimens of the tokens to various publications. Soon enough he was getting his cents noticed all over the place. Most all the reviews were positive.

Mint director, Robert M. Patterson, was asked for his opinions regarding the alloy. He enlisted the help of a friend at the Franklin Institute, Professor James Curtis Booth. Booth was a renowned chemist who lectured at the Franklin Institute between 1836 and 1845. Booth had an unfavorable opinion of Feuchtwanger's alloy likely due to its difficulty in standardizing its fineness and difficulty in working down from bar form. Patterson also was troubled by the possible loss of a great source of revenue for the Mint. Copper was purchased on the open market and the coining into cents and half cents produced a hefty seigniorage. This profit would likely have been taken away with Feuchtwanger alone supplying the metal. Patterson presented these negatives to Congress and Feuchtwanger's coinage proposal was dead.

After the issuance of the cooper-nickel cents in 1857, numismatists wondered why this similar coin was not adopted in 1837. In 1849, James C. Booth was hired to be Melter and Refiner at the Mint. His past experience with the copper-nickel-zinc coinage of Feuchtwanger may have reminded him to look into this as a change from the copper cent in 1856. In any event when the Mint was ready to change, they did it on their own terms and was in large part based on Feuchtwanger's efforts.

The distribution of Feuchtwanger's cents was likely done in late 1837. Most show signs of circulation wear. The obverse dies were cut very deep and many show weakness on the eagle's body and have very noticeable differences. These differences make collecting the die pair set challenging and interesting. Seven obverse dies (numbered 1 - 7) and ten reverse dies (lettered A - J) are known of the cents.

Today Feuchtwanger's cents are a favorite of both token collectors and Flying Eagle cent collectors. The following collection, assembled by Doug Wright, mostly from the dispersal of the Q. David Bowers reference collection, is impressive and shows the various die combinations, less two extremely rare die pairings. These are all cataloged as Low-120 in the Hard Times catalog originally by Lyman Low. Russell Rulau's *Standard Catalog of United States Token 1700-1900* lists these by HT numbers with Feuchwanger's tokens listed as HT-268.

**Obv. 1:** Very coarse denticles. Large date, which is very close to the base of the ground. The snake's tongue points to the eagle's eye and is slightly right of being vertical. There is a raised engraver's flaw in the field above the snake's head.

**Rev. A:** ONE very widely spaced. Small O's on COMPOSITION. A in FEUCHTWANGER'S well above the N. P is large, shows recutting and nearly touches the stem.

**R-5.** Scarce. Most are XF with AU being scarce. The Wright coin is MS63. Only use of this obverse. The reverse is used on 2-A.

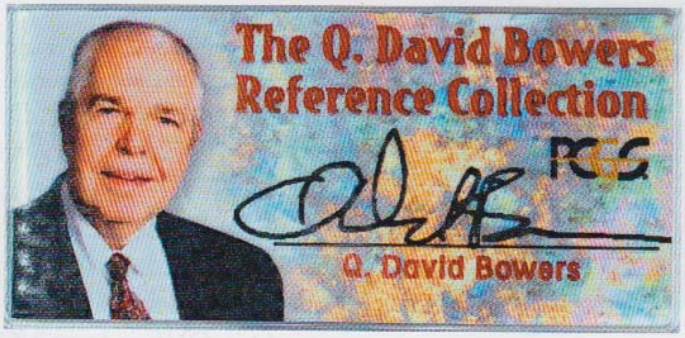
**Obv. 2:** Coarse denticles. Small 18. Large 37. Date centered. The snake's tongue points to the eagle's beak and is at a 45 deg. angle. The body of the snake below the head is deeply engraved and shows as a blob.

**Rev. A:** ONE very widely spaced. Small O's on COMPOSITION. A in FEUCHTWANGER'S well above the N. P is large, shows recutting and touches the stem.

**R-5.** Scarce. Most are VF or XF with AU being very rare. The Wright coin is MS66. This is the only use of this obverse. The reverse is also used on 1-A.

The Wright collection of Feuchtwanger's Composition tokens is built from the Q. David Bowers Reference collection, which was part of Bower's collection of Hard Times tokens sold by Stack's Bowers at the August 2019, ANA sale.

The Bowers' collection was the basis for his *Guide Book of Hard Times Tokens,* Whitman Publishing, 2015. Much of the information here was from that important resource. Dave's research and books are an outstanding contribution to the hobby and we are all lucky to be able to have him available to do this important work.




In my December issue of "Longacre's Ledger" there was a very informative article written by Richard Snow about Feuchtwanger's small cents. Although these tokens are listed in the "Red Book" I believe few collectors actually know very much regarding them. In this short article, reprinted here with permission by Richard Snow, there is a lot of good information regarding their history. The entire article was illustrated with several pages of high quality images and if you are interested further you should contact the "Fly-In Club" directly, or better yet, try an annual subscription if you have interest in Flying Eagle and Indian Head Cents. I again, thank Richard Snow for allowing a reprint of his article. EDITOR

## UNS PRIZES FOR FEBRUARY

Promptness Prize 1982 BU Washington Half Dollar

Junior Prize 1902 Nickel & Arrowhead

Member Prize 1923-S Peace Dollar

Due to tonight's auction there will be no prizes.

They will return next month

# Longacre's Ledger

*The Journal of The Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Collectors' Society*
Volume 29.3, Issue #107 www.fly-inclub.org December 2019

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The cover of this month's Mint Master displays a complete denomination set of "Deseret University Bank" type 2 currency.

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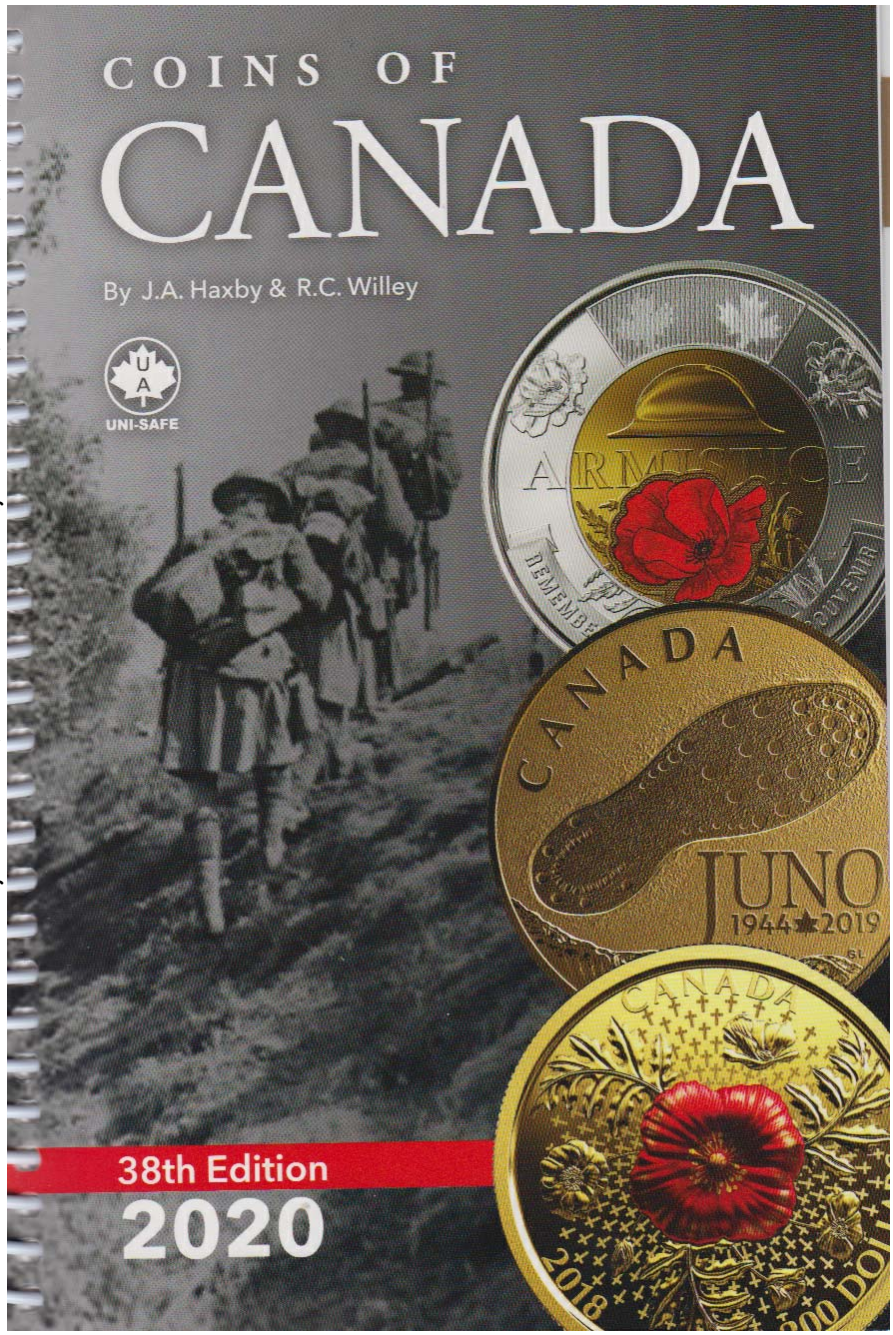
# CANADIAN COINS

## Doug Nyholm




I recently acquired the new 2020 / 38th Edition of "Coins of Canada" by J.A. Haxby & R.C. Wiley. I don't usually purchase annual editions of Canadian price guides like I do for say, the Red Book, and it has been several years since my last purchase. In the past I have collected several different Canadian coin sets including an old Dansco album for type and a collection of half dollars and found Canadian coins to be quite interesting and also educational. I have always wanted to put together a set of Voyager Silver dollars and may do this someday in the future.

My interest in Canadian coins is somewhat limited to the circulating numismatic issues rather that the more modern special collector coins currently being produced. This is similar to United States coinage, I prefer the older numismatic issues rather that the multitude of modern commemorative and bullion issues. In recent years the United States mint has certainly expanded their offerings by producing a multitude of commemoratives as well as a number of different bullion coins with multiple finishes, mints, and groupings. I remember as a kid growing up one could collect the entire years offerings by assembling a 5-piece uncirculated mint set and then additionally adding the annual proof set. The price could set your budget back less that $10 for the year. Remember there were only 5 different denominations and yes, the half dollar was still in circulation. Skip forward to today and if one wanted to complete a complete annual collection of everything the U.S. Mint produces it could easily set you back $10,000 or more, of course this would include bullion.

It was certainly fun to be able to get everything for an entire year that would comprise of only 10 coins but

to a point it was boring. After all, except for the Kennedy half and Memorial cent most designs has been in circulation for decades. The fun part was finding the occasional Buffalo nickel, Mercury Dime, or Walking Half in your change. Even finding a dateless Standing Liberty quarter of which most, by this time had no dates was still fun. Now with the multitude of different designs even in circulation especially if you refer to the quarters, and then the special commemoratives, and if one can afford bullion it can certainly not be considered boring. Expensive but not boring! I honestly do not know a single collector who strives to collect everything for every year, and there are definitely enough choices for one to still collect many things if they are interested in modern coins. Some of us old-timers, and I don't think that I am alone prefering the old stuff but to each his own. If everyone collected only Mercury Dimes, it would be boring but also the competition would probably push the price of a circulated 1945 Merc to well over $100.

This brings me back to the title of this article, Canadian Coins. If one looks at the plethora of issues that the Canadian mints have produced the offerings from the U.S. pale in comparison. The new book I purchased is a thick book with exactly 700 pages which contain all the older Canadian issues. It includes many of the early Canadian colonial issues beginning in the 1700's as well as the coins issued by the Maritime Provinces (New Brunswick, PEI, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland) then it begins with the 1858 early coinage and from there they describe at the Province of Canada or Confederation issues. I equate this to the beginning of the U.S. Mint in 1793. These are generally the circulating issues which continue to the current date. These two aforementioned categories comprise of pretty much the first 185 pages of the book. When I say that Canada has produced a plethora of separate collector issues and the book is 700 pages, we are left with 515 pages for these so-called modern collector coins. Wow! One thing Canada has excelled in is creation of literally thousands of modern collector coins. Almost every denomination one can imagine, dozens of different shapes and sizes, not to mention colored issues and finally more gold and silver bullion coins than one can count. Talk about spending $10,000+ for a complete year set from the United States this could easily top $100,000 and for some years top $200,000 for Canada. This is not to mention the 100-kilo gold bullion coin which is also listed in the current catalog. Some of these gold issues have a mintage as low as 5 coins. You better be the first one signing onto their web site to get one of these, but then again, with an issue price of $75,000 you might not have all that much competition as the recent 2019-S Reverse proof Silver Eagle from the U.S.

In looking at the multitude of Canadian issues, their mint truly attempts to appeal to virtually every collectors' interests. They have colorized cartoon characters on coins, they have a Star Trek series, Colorized Christmas and virtually every animal and flower and the list goes on and on. Another offering has multicolored gems and stones imbedded and even 3D coins. Some of their coins are quite amazing and very beautiful but then many are not for everyone or even the serous numismatic collector. This may be all great and wonderful for Canada but personally I hope that the United States Mint does not follow suit. I think that the U.S. already has too many different issues and the market is a bit saturated

In summary, this Haxby/Willey book does a great job of covering just about everything Canadian, old and new. Charlton Press also issues annual Canadian guides but their book is divided into separate volumes. One is for coins from 1954 to date labeled Numismatic Issues, while the other covers coins from 1858. They also have books covering Canadian Colonial tokens and one for paper money. A collection of all of the Charlton books will set you back well over $50 while the Haxby book has a list price of $28.95. I was able to order it on eBay with free shipping. So, depending upon how serious of a Canadian collector you are one, or several of the above mentioned books should suffice.

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# 2020 AGENDA

**FEBRUARY - Auction**

**MARCH - Speaker**

**APRIL - Grading Night**

**MAY - UNS Birthday**

**JUNE - Youth Night**

**JULY - UNS Picnic**

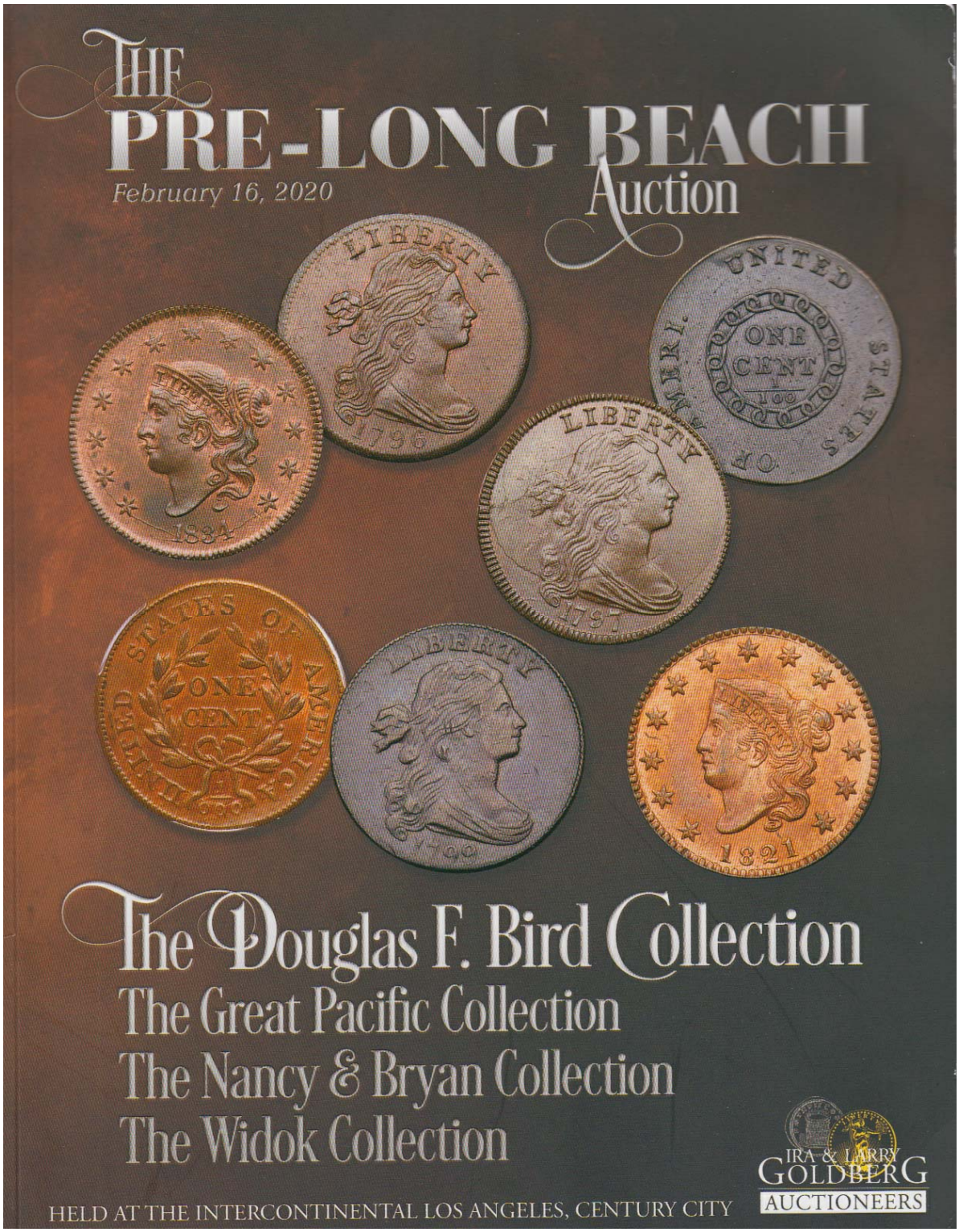
**AUGUST - Artificial Toning / Speaker**

**SEPTEMBER - Bourse**

**OCTOBER - Speaker**

**NOVEMBER - Election / Show & Tell**

**DECEMBER - Christmas Dinner**




I recently received the Goldberg's Pre-Long Beach auction catalog. This auction is scheduled for February 16th and contains 500 pages chocked full of early Large Cents and Half Cents. One thing for sure, The Goldberg's certainly know how to specialize in early coppers and this catalogue is testament to that. This auction is highlighted by the Bird collection and contains 11 Large Cents with price estimates exceeding $100,000 as well as a good number of specimens rarely seen or offered. If you collect or are interested in early copper you owe it to yourself to check out this auction. EDITOR

**CULL OF THE WILD**

*Modern Day Treasures Culled from Circulation*

by Mont Toronto

Greetings, everyone!

It's a new year and hopefully you're all succeeding in working towards your resolutions, collecting-wise or otherwise. I know for me, my new goal is building a 20-21st century type set of raw coins from culls and gifts. A daunting task, but fun to have a clear objective as a rookie numismatist.

For starters, I wanted to issue a few corrections/retractions as I've learned more and gotten corroboration from online community members at www.CoinCommunity.com.

- In Issue 01, I misidentified a 1964 P 1c LMC as a DDR-020. Differential analysis confirmed it is a legitimate doubled-die reverse, but not of the DDR-020 variety. No consensus on which known example from VarietyVista.com it matches, though.

- In Issue 04 (last issue), the 1962 D 1c LMC with the dot below the T that I labeled a "die break" should have been more appropriately attributed as a "die gouge."

Minor details, I know, but I wanted to hold myself accountable for accuracy and precision, especially when the minutiae of errors are concerned.

Here's my question for the month—not a FAQ this time, but relevant to coin hunting:

**Is there a PCGS competition for 2020?**

Yes! Based on a press release on Jan. 27, 2020, it appears that PCGS will be doing another circulation quest, though this one is different from the "First to Submit a New Release" style they held in 2019.

For 2020, the competition is to assemble the best PCGS Registry Set of 2020 P and D Cents, Nickels, and Dimes. This is done by submitting specimens for grading and using the PCGS holder barcode number to add to an online set corresponding to your PCGS Collector's Club account. Anyone who completes the challenge will be entered to win $2,000 in a random drawing. An additional $2,500 prize will be awarded to the contestant who assembles the highest graded set. Grading fees are a flat $20 per coin submitted. Within 45 days of the first submission of each specimen, each coin will receive the Early Find designation. More info at: https://www.pcgs.com/coinquest

If this is something that sounds like a fun challenge for you, then I wish you luck on your 2020 circulation hunting!

By the way, feel free to email me at mont.toronto@gmail.com if you have any questions, comments, feedback, or if you just want to chat about modern rarities.

Now, onto this month's spotlights!

## THIS MONTH'S SPOTLIGHTS

### 2019 D - 25c Lowell ATB Quarter Die Crack

**Description:** This mint error was discovered among the 2019 D Lowell quarters I had set aside as I sorted through box after box of assorted circulation quarters. My online research indicated that the bell tower had been found to have die breaks on the Philadelphia issues, so I was scanning that quadrant of the Denver issues and found the telltale crescent hairline (to the naked eye) between the bell tower and the smokestack like I had seen on the 2019 D San Antonio Missions quarters. Magnification revealed that it was definitely an early stage die crack. I one day hope to come across it's full-break sibling.

**Identifying Marks:** Denver mint issue, die crack arcing NNW/SSE between the bell tower and the smokestack on the obverse (design) side.

**URS:** Unknown.
**Book Value*:*** N/A
**GC Auction Value:** N/A

### 2005 P -25c Minnesota State Quarter Lamination Error

**Description:** I encountered this error among a box of assorted circulation quarters. As I was looking through, the surface anomaly popped out at me. Under magnification, I noticed that the area in question was incuse (impressed), rather than something on the surface of the coin. Final third-party opinions are still pending, but I've found support for this as a possible lamination error. There's still an outside chance it's some form of post-mint damage (PMD), so I'll update in a later issue if that appears likely.

**Identifying Marks:** Surface marred by leaving textured incuse area in an irregular shape above the treetops (treetops on the Minnesota quarters are common areas for die breaks).

**URS:** Unknown.
**Book Value:** N/A
**GC Auction Value:** N/A

**1960 D - 1c Lincoln Memorial Cent Small Date (BN-Brown)**

**Description:** This isn't an especially ground-breaking find, but it is an example of the types of less-common common issues you can encounter in roll hunting. Since the 1960 small date cents were a well-publicized semi-rarity in the 60s and 70s, finding them in circulation is much trickier, but a good condition specimen found for face value is a worthy addition to an album or set. On high grade examples, a Doubled-Die Obverse with a Small Date minted over a Large Date can be found and command hundred of dollars in premiums.

**Identifying Marks:** 1960 date. The top of the 1 is in line with the top of the 9. The stem on the "6" is shorter than on large dates, just barely peeking above the 0. The 0 is more oval than perfectly circular.

**URS:** Common.
**Book Value:** $12 (MS-65); $24 (MS-66); $225 (MS-67)
**GC Auction Value:** $400 (PCGS MS-67 RD, Apr. 2017)

**MEMBER FIND: 1943 S - 1c Wheat Reverse Wartime Steel Cent**

**Description:** This heavily-worn steel wheatie comes as a submission from UNS Member Don Swain. It goes to show why you *always* check the coin returns at the machines you pass! During World War 2, the United States Mint issued steel cents in lieu of copper cents due to material shortages. The steel cents were only issued for one year, though a few dozen steel planchets that snuck into 1944 production have gained fame and auction for tens of thousands of dollars

**Identifying Marks:** Lincoln bust obverse, wheat reverse. The composition is steel-coated zinc.

**URS:** Common.
**Book Value:** $32 (MS-65); $60 (MS-66); $240 (MS-67)
**GC Auction Value:** $28 (PCGS MS-65, Jan. 2020); $116 (NGC MS-66, Dec. 2018); $575 (PCGS MS-67, Sep. 2019)

That's it for another "Cull of the Wild." Please come chat with me at a club meeting or shoot me an email if you want to talk modern errors and oddities!

- Mont Toronto

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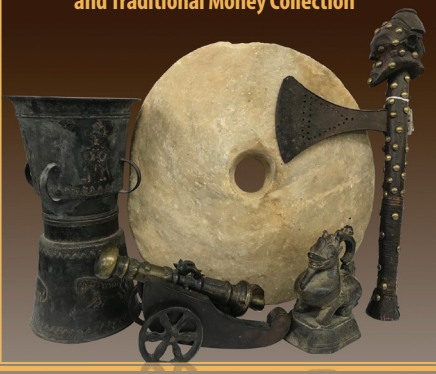

Fr-268 $5 1896 Treasury Note, PMG 45

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# The Money Quiz

## GOLD QUIZ

#

1. What was the price of gold in 1849?

   A) $16.00 B) $20.67

   C) $28.00 D) $32.00

2. What was the price of gold in 1933?

   A) $32.00 B) $30.50

   C) $26.33 D) $35.75

3. During what year did the first gold arrive at Ft. Knox?

   A) 1933 B) 1935

   C) 1936 D) 1937

4. What year did Great Britain go off the gold standard?

   A) 1931 B) 1932

   C) 1933 D) 1934

5. How many million ounces of gold were stored at Ft Knox at its peak?

   A) 990 B) 435

   C) 650 D) 260

6. The first modern gold bullion coin was introduced by South Africa in what year?

   A) 1966 B) 1967

   C) 1971 D) 1972

6. What year were Americans able to legally own gold?

#

   A) 1972 B) 1976

   C) 1975 D) 1984

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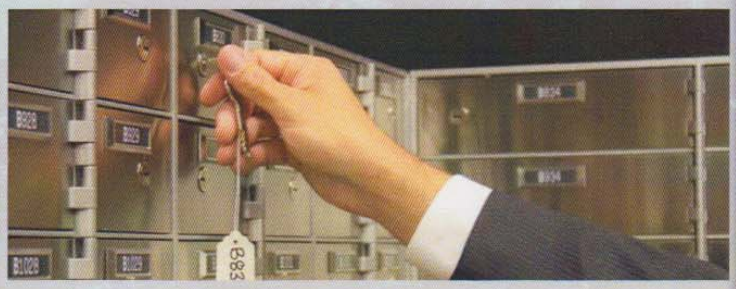

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# EDITOR'S MESSAGE

RESOLUTIONS

As you all know I enjoy researching rare coins, writing about numismatics and reading about numismatics. I guess you can say that I eat, drink and sleep coins. Coin collecting it has been said it is the hobby of Kings, and while I am certainly not a King or a wealthy person, I have been able to collect and handle some exceptional rarities. Many of us have New Year's resolutions of which many last for only a few days or weeks, others possibly longer. I was able to complete one of my resolutions already and that was to print hard copies of the UNS Mint Master since I began editing in in 2009. Wow, 10+ years! I wanted to index some of the articles which I and others have written for our clubs' publication, and this seems to be for me the only way possible. We obviously live in a digital age where everything is stored electronically and even many books and other publications only appear within cyber space. I guess I am on old timer and I would much rather sit in my easy chair with a book than a computer or iPad. I also thought how daunting of a task it would be to open and page through over 100 PDF editions totaling almost 3,000 pages. Yes, believe it or not over the past 10+ years the Mint Master is almost 3,000 pages. Now I don't know who this is going to benefit or be satisfied other than myself, as I have been known to sort, categorize, tabulate, and generate lists of all sorts throughout my life. Some may call it organized but if one looks at my computer if is realistically an organized mess. I once read that current day millennials will snap 27,000 pictures on their smart phones by the time that they are 30 years old. I guess for some that may possibly be true and if it is, hopefully they haven't lost most or all of them along the way and I can't imagine sorting and indexing 27,000 images. I even give up with my meager amount by comparison that I have on my laptop but it is backed up.

Enough of my rambling, I have just found a very interesting article regarding the history of gold prices and events surrounding the metal which I will be formulating into an article for March. I think that we generally thought that gold in the mid-19th century was at $16/oz then years later it jumped to $20/oz and onto $32/oz before it started fluctuating widely in the early 1970's. It has been quite a roller coaster and when the older prices are adjusted for inflation the results are even more surprising. Look for the article next month. And the way the metals markets, especially Palladium, is performing don't be surprised to see that white metal at $3,000 soon!

Good luck with your resolutions.

**Ralph R. Muller**

**P.O. Box 9088**

**Salt Lake City, Utah 84109**

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#

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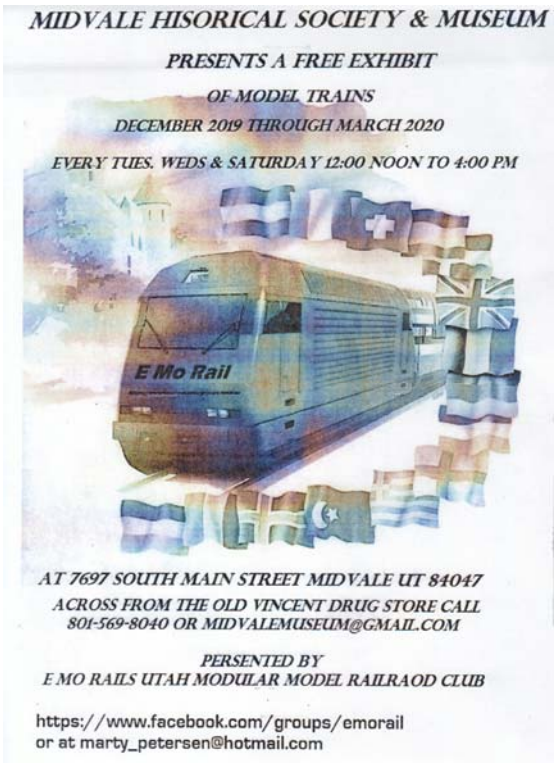
**BUY—SELL—APPRAISE COINS & CURRENCY**

I gave a talk for the 'Utah Treasure Hunters' club which was held at the Midvale Museum. This is a small but very interesting museum and if you haven't been there I suggest a visit. They currently have a model railroad display which is very well done.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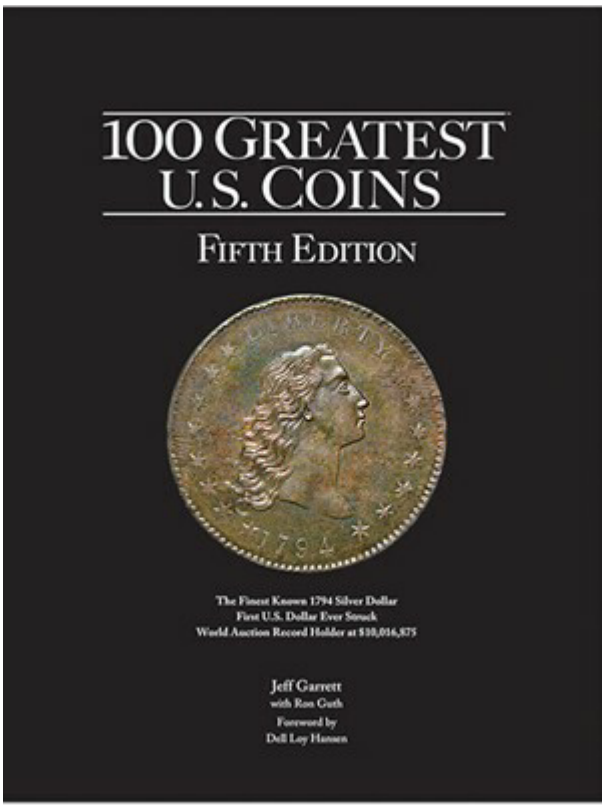
**BOOK REVIEW**

# 100 Greatest U.S. Coins

## 5th Edition

## Jeff Garrett




I recently received the 5th Edition of "100 Greatest U.S. Coins." I sometimes wonder about multiple editions of specialty books as to how much can, or does, change from edition to edition. Unlike like the "Red Book," which issues a new edition annually, or other price guides in the attempt to keep up with the changing market, what changes regarding the 100 Greatest U.S. coins constitutes a new edition? In giving credit to this edition, the coins have historically listed prices starting with 1960 then jumping to 1980 followed by the prices listed in the first thru fifth editions. Virtually every coin in the book has been listed in all five editions. I say virtually because there are a handful of coins which have not and have been added through the various editions. It would be interesting to research which of the 100 have been dropped throughout the previous editions to make room for these additions. Short of going through page by page with each volume it would also be interesting if the writers noted which coins have moved up or down the list. The authors did state that two notable coins were dropped from this edition which were the 1851/1852 Seated Dollars, previously #98, and the 1819 Capped Head half eagle, formally #100. Notable editions to this edition include the 1861 Confederate Half Dollar, 1879 Quintuple Stella, and the 1783 Nova Constellatio Patters, Complete Set.

As always, the photography for these coins is outstanding and the write-up and illustrations for each coin are very informative. Additionally, this edition appears to have an expanded section of comments from industry leaders which makes for very interesting reading. The appendix has brief summaries of some of the great collectors of the past and several tables of great coins.

This book makes a great oversize coffee table book and is filled with a multitude of information about the rarest of the rare U.S. coins. Also, for $29.95 it is a bargain for a quality coin book.

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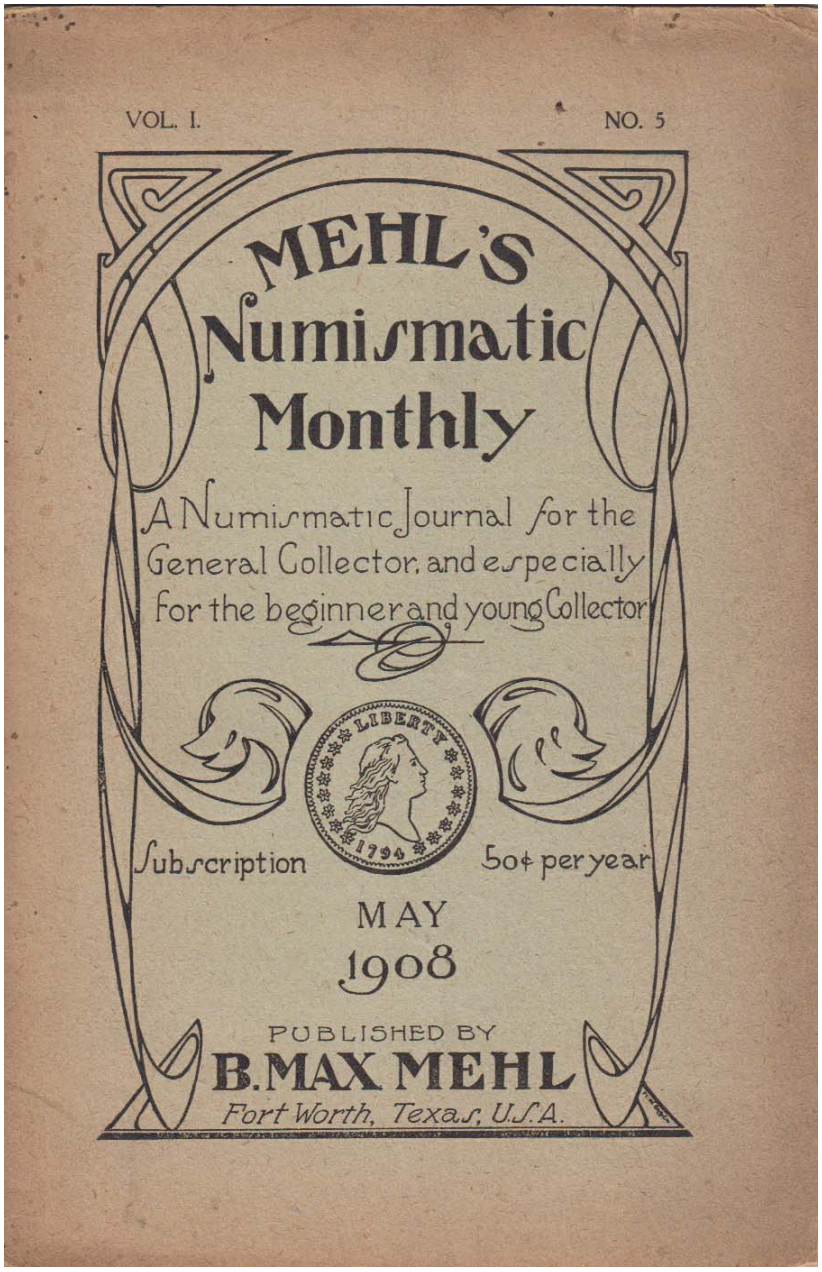
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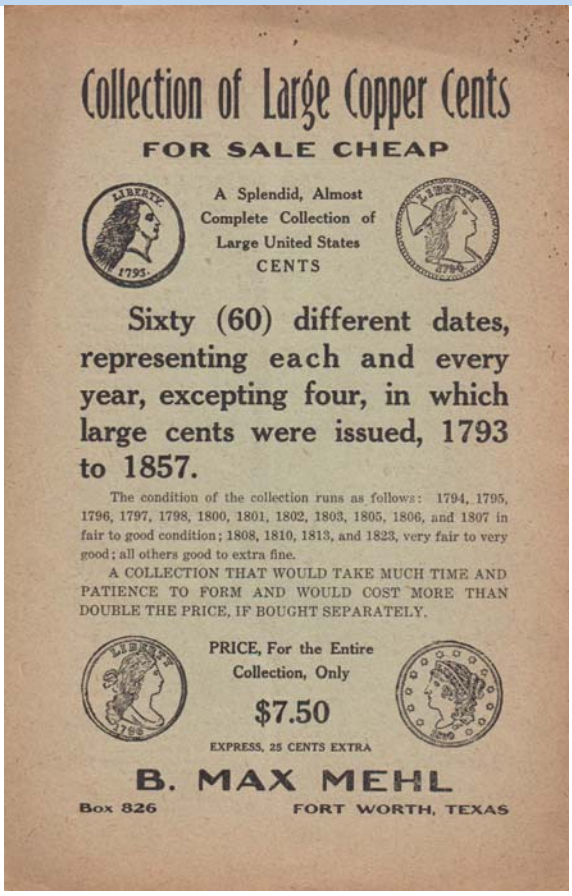
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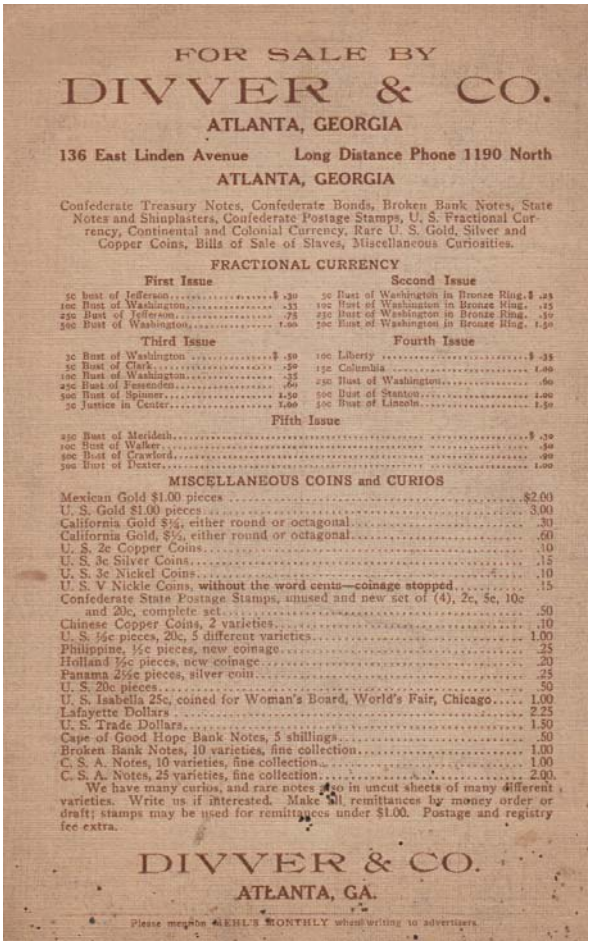
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Please mention MEHL'S MONTHLY when writing to advertisers.

I recently received a set of five very early 'Numismatic Monthly' magazines by Max Mehl which I ordered from eBay. These were dated from 1907/08 and they contained some interesting articles along with a few period ads. The one which caught my eye first was the offering of a virtually complete date set of Large Cents for the astonishing price of $7.50!

I am working on my time machine now. EDITOR

# WILL 2019 BECOME A TURNING POINT IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE U. S. MINT AND THE NUMISMATIC AND/OR COIN COLLECTING COMMUNITY?

Every Mint product, pictured above, had an adverse impact on the numismatic community in 2019. From the special proof W mint cents provided free with the purchase of a Proof set to the Enhanced Reverse Proof American Silver Eagle (ASE), the Mint had problems with its management and/or production processes. These problems, some recurring, have left many numismatists and long-time collectors so upset that according to posts to the *Coin World* website and letters to the editor they will no longer do business with the Mint. Is this an overreaction or a realization that despite what Mint management says, they really don't have the best interests of the numismatic or coin collecting communities in mind? In every situation this past year, the Mint's action or inaction speaks much louder than their scripted words. Spots on Proof coins, currency which is sealed out-of- place in collector sets, randomly dumping W mintmark quarters by metal scoop into large production bins for eventual mixing, the careless destruction of $1 million in First Spouse gold coins, the decision to sell 183,781 unsold 2016-W Proof American Silver Eagles to bulk dealers at a significantly discounted price well below what was charged three years ago (<$30 versus $53.95), grossly underestimating the demand for the 2019-S Enhanced Reverse Proof American Silver Eagle (sold out in under 20 minutes), and maintaining a website ordering system which fails high transaction situations all suggest that the Mint's proclaimed interest in helping and sustaining the numismatic community may be nothing but lip service.

Some production problems are inevitable and can be understood; however, when they are recurring and repetitive, it suggests a lack of concern and mismanagement of processes. The only people who really care about a coin's mintmark are numismatists and/or collectors; so why didn't the Mint support the interests of those communities in the release of the 2019-W ATB 25¢ coins? A nice 5-coin set, just like the Proof ATB quarter sets, would have been a hit even at a premium price and the Mint and the taxpayer would have benefitted rather than the secondary market profiteers who know somebody at Wells Fargo, Loomis, etc. With respect to the 2019-S Enhanced Reverse Proof ASE, if the Mint wanted another 1995-W ASE scenario, they succeeded. If they really wanted to bolster the numismatic community, they would have considered the quantities associated with the last 2016-P Reverse Proof ASE and planned accordingly. Again, instead of profiteers making all the money ($4000 for a PF70) and putting the coin out of the reach of many collectors, especially the young or new, the Mint could have produced 100,000-150,000 which would have been beneficial to the Mint and the American taxpayer. It cannot come as a surprise to the Mint that many of its customers are dismayed, disgruntled, and angry which will cause many to leave its customer base. Loyalty is a two-way street. Will you?

At this point, I intend to stay a loyal customer. With over 57 years as a Mint customer, I have had more favorable experiences than bad ones. 2019 however, has been a real eyeopener and I hope that the Mint will take the necessary steps to get all of its processes under control. As of this writing, there will be 2020-W ATB quarters with a privy mark, but still no Mint news releases on how they will be made available to the public. I predict that distribution will be like 2019.

**Phil Clark**

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**Quiz Answers**

1. B
2. C
3. D
4. B
5. C
6. B
7. C